Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-3, 8, and 9 were pending in the Office Action. In response claims 8 and 9 have been amended pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion.

1. (cancelled)
2. (cancelled)
3. (cancelled)
4. (cancelled)
5. (withdrawn)
6. (withdrawn)
7. (withdrawn)

8. (currently amended) ~~A compound of claim 1~~ An oligomeric para-phenylene compound having the formula:

$$R^1\text{-}(Ar^i)_n\text{-}R^2$$

wherein

the subscript n is an integer of from 5 to 15;

the superscript i is an integer of from 1 to n and denotes the position downstream from R^1;

each Ar^i group is a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, with at least one Ar^i group being selected from phenylene having from 1 to 4 halogen substituents;

R^1 and R^2 are each substituents that increase the solubility of the para-phenylene compound in nonpolar organic solvents relative to the solubility of the corresponding compound and wherein R^1 and R^2 are each independently substituents having the formula:

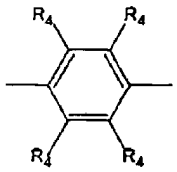
$$R^3\text{-}(Ar^j)_m\text{-}$$

wherein

the subscript m is an integer of from 1 to 5;

each Ar^j is selected from the group consisting of

a) a 1,4-phenylene group having the formula:



wherein each R^4 is a member independently selected from the group consisting of H, substituted or unsubstituted (C_1-C_{12}) alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted (C_1-C_{12}) alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted (C_1-C_{12}) alkylamino, substituted or unsubstituted (C_1-C_{12}) alkylthio, substituted or unsubstituted di(C_1-C_{12}) alkylamino, substituted or unsubstituted arylamino, substituted or unsubstituted diarylamino and halogen, with the proviso that at least two of the four R^4 substituents are independently selected from substituted or unsubstituted (C_1-C_{12}) alkyl and substituted or unsubstituted (C_1-C_{12}) alkoxy, and

b) an aryl biradical selected from the group consisting of 1,4-naphthylene, 1,4-anthrylene, 9,10-anthrylene, 5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphth-1,4-ylene, 9,9',10,10'-tetra(C_1-C_{12})alkyl-9,10-dihydroanthr-1,4-ylene, 9,9',10,10'-tetraaryl-9,10-dihydroanthr-1,4-ylene, 9,9',10,10'-tetra(C_1-C_{12})alkyl-9,10-dihydroanthr-2,6-ylene, 9,9',10,10'-tetraaryl-9,10-dihydroanthr-1,4-ylene; and

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of H, substituted or unsubstituted (C_1-C_{12}) alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted (C_1-C_{12}) alkylamino, substituted or unsubstituted (C_1-C_{12}) alkylthio, substituted or unsubstituted di(C_1-C_{12}) alkylamino, substituted or unsubstituted arylamino, substituted or unsubstituted diarylamino and halogen; and

with the proviso that the Ar^i groups are linked together in a 1,4-paraphenylene manner.

9. (original) A compound of claim 8, wherein m is an integer of from 1 to 3.

10 – 29. (canceled)

30. (new) A compound of claim 8, wherein n is 5 and R^1 and R^2 are $-(Ar^j)_m-R^3$ wherein Ar^j is substituted or unsubstituted phenylene and m is 1.